



Urban District Council of Northwich.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

AND

Vital Statistics, &c.,

For the Year ended Dec. 31st, 1923.

NORTHWICH:
W. HOBSON & SON, PRINTERS.

the respiratory organs (excluding phthisis), 9 from violence, and 2 from suicide. There was 1 death from appendicitis, 1 from diabetes, and 1 from rheumatic fever. There were 2 deaths from parturition, but none from sepsis.

There were 20 inquests held—2 were suicide, both males, aged 53 and 65, one hanging and one drowning. Of the other 18—5 were of children, gastric enteritis causing two (3m. and 22m.), burns 1, prematurity 1, and structure of oesophagus after swallowing caustic potash 1. Violence—killed by motor vehicle 2, falls causing fractured thigh 2, stone falling upon head 1, sunstroke 1, found in river 1. The remainder were from heart and kidney diseases.

The corrected number of deaths (see M 13) is 202—109 being males. The general death rate is 10·7 per 1,000.

Infantile Mortality.—There were 25 deaths of infants under one year registered, 10 of which were during the first month of age. Table VI shows the particulars, and it will be noted that 5 are from premature birth, 5 from syphilis, and 4 from diseases of the respiratory organs. The death from enteritis was the subject of an inquest. There are no deaths from tuberculosis nor from any infectious disease.

The number during each month and quarter was as follows :—

Jan. ...	3	Apr. ...	4	July ...	2	Oct. ...	0
Feb. ...	4	May ...	5	Aug. ...	0	Nov. ...	2
Mar. ...	1	June ...	1	Sept. ...	2	Dec. ...	0
<hr/>							
1st Quar.	8	2nd Quar.	10	3rd Quar.	4	4th Quar.	2
Total for year—24.							

There was one death of an illegitimate child.

The R.G. returns 26 deaths of infants.

The death rate of infants is 1·3 per 1,000 of the population or 75 per 1,000 of the children born.

The death rate per 1,000 of illegitimate children is ·05.

Infectious Diseases.—Scarlet fever was responsible for 52 notifications during the year. The disease was of a mild character, and was more or less general throughout the year; the number of cases notified during the four quarters being 20, 8, 13 and 11 respectively. None of these were fatal, and 48 were removed to Hospital.

Of the 11 cases of diphtheria, 6 were notified during the second quarter and 3 during the last, one each during the first and third. None were fatal, and 8 were removed to Hospital.

There were 3 cases of ophthalmia neonatorum notified, 2 of which completely recovered, while the other, a severe case, was taken into the Manchester Eye Hospital, and owing to the care given to it there recovered with only a partial opacity in one eye.

There were 31 cases of tuberculosis, 24 being of the lungs, and the other 7 being of cervical glands 3, abdomen 2, spine 1, and skin 1.

Table 3 shows the various ages and the different diseases.

There were no epidemics of great extent, but whooping cough was prevalent during the spring, for which the Victoria Road Infants School was closed from the 3rd to 26th of March. This was the only School closed during the year.

Nursing Arrangements, Hospital Accommodation, &c.—General Nursing is done by voluntary effort in the form of District Nurses. Infectious cases are not catered for, but where nursing accommodation is inadequate the case is removed to Hospital.

Out-door relief to the sum of £3,494 was disbursed. This does not include relief paid to unemployed, which amounted to £2491 in the whole Union.

Midwives are under the supervision of the County Council.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—The new premises, Darland House, have proved an attractive and suitable centre for the Child Welfare Clinic. There are two sessions held each week, and members of the Ladies Committee attend, together with the Health Visitor and Medical Officer. No medicinal treatment is carried out.

The average attendance for the year is 31.3.

There were 356 live births and 13 stillbirths during the year. The discrepancy between this figure and that from the Registrar's return is because the former is the number actually occurring, and the latter the number registered.

Of these births, 351 were notified by Midwives, 3 by Doctors, and none by parents.

All the 356 children were visited once, and 9 of the stillbirths, and 2690 repeat visits to children under 1 year, and 2758 visits to children between 1 and 5 years old were made.

Visits to expectant mothers were made to the number of 236, while 124 first visits were made.

The average attendance of expectant mothers at each session at the centre was 3.

The Victoria Infirmary, for surgical cases only, is within the District, and is supported by voluntary contributions.

The new Wing which has been completed and opened during the year, contains a children's ward for 9 cots, and two side wards each with 1 cot, making the total number of beds in the Institution 32.

The Workhouse Hospital is also within the District, and always available for homeless children, unmarried mothers, and illegitimate children if necessitous. A detached house with a garden, situated about half a mile away, has been purchased by the Guardians for a Children's Home. It will accommodate some 35 children.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary is open one evening and one morning each week and is under the County Council.

The Isolation and Small-pox Hospitals are under a Joint Board of Representatives of this and adjoining Authorities, and the accommodation has always proved adequate.

There is no lack of ambulance facilities, a motor being kept at the Leftwich Isolation Hospital for infectious cases, another horse ambulance at the Small-pox Hospital for cases of that disease. The large works keep ambulances for their own use and are readily disposed to accommodate the suffering, and lastly the Council maintain a motor ambulance provided by the British Red Cross Society.

Laboratory Work.—Arrangements are made with the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, by which any Practitioner requiring a throat swab examining for diphtheria, a sample of blood for typhoid, a sputum for tubercle bacilli, may send the morbid product direct to the Laboratory. Also he is supplied with diphtheria antitoxin on request for any case in the District. In addition to this the M.O.H. has power to take any reasonable steps he may deem necessary, such as examination of cerebro-spinal fluid, milk, food, &c., which may appear to be endangering the health of the community.

The examinations during the year were as follows :—

		Positive.		Negative.		Total.
Tubercle bacilli	...	27	...	—	...	27
Diphtheria	...	3	...	19	...	22
Enteric Fever	...	—	...	2	...	2
Cerebro-spinal fluid	...	—	...	—	...	—
		—		—		—
Total	...	30	...	21	...	51
		—		—		—

The County Council's arrangements for tuberculosis were responsible for all the sputum examinations except one, these were mostly from dispensary cases.

For the treatment of diphtheria 120,000 units of antitoxin were requisitioned for and supplied to local Practitioners.

Adoptive Acts.—Those in force in the District are :—

Infectious Diseases Notification Act of 1890.

Notification of Births Act.

Part III of the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890.

Parts II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII and X of P.H.
Amendment Act of 1907.

Baths and Wash-houses Act.

Public Libraries Act.

Museums and Gymnasiums Act.

Private Streets Works Act, 1892.

Rats and Mice Order.

Sanitary Administration.—The raising of the town has progressed ; the side streets leading to the Bull Ring, Castle Street and its environs being completed, and with them the relaying of the sewers. The Town Bridge has been out of action since November while its alteration is accomplished ; some optimists hope it will be completed by June. The obstruction caused by its absence when the summer motor traffic reaches its level, will make the narrow streets and footpaths very perilous to wayfarers.

The whole town is supplied from Springs and Bore Holes at Cotebrook. It is a very hard water but otherwise of great purity.

The conversion to water closets of 50 privies and 14 pail closets has been accomplished during the year, and 124 ashpits have been replaced by ashbins.

The following list shows what number of defects was found, and of which all except 12 were abated :—

Drains	...	...	...	114	Offensive Accumulations	10
Roofs	...	...	...	19	Offensive Privies...	50
Ashbins	...	...	...	16	Damp Walls	17
W.C. Cisterns	...	...	...	4	Ceilings	7
Floors	...	...	...	16	Doors	7
Spouts	...	...	...	38	Window Frames	14
Ventilating Shafts	...	...	...	2	Bakehouses requiring lime-	
Pails	...	...	...	115	washing	3
Ashpits	...	...	...	124	Lodging houses requiring	
Closets	...	...	...	88	limewashing	5
Chimneys	...	...	...	2	Insufficient Closet accom-	
Wash Boilers	...	...	...	2	modation	6
Yard Paving	...	...	...	8	Workshops	9
Dirty Rooms	...	...	...	18	Miscellaneous	62
Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	4		
Dairies	...	...	...	7	Total	767

Preliminary notices have been served in 288 instances, and 1 statutory notice. No legal proceedings have been taken.

There are 2 fresh bakehouses on the Register, making 35 altogether, none being underground. Slaughter houses remain as before, viz., 7 registered and 4 licensed. An addition of 9, making 172 factories and workshops. There are 5 offensive trades carried on in the district.

A revised register of dairies, cowsheds and milkshops has been compiled under the Milk and Dairies Amendment Act of 1922. There are 16 resident retailers and 5 producers. The premises of all were visited by the M.O. and Inspector, and many improvements required. All were circularised with instructions regarding the keeping and distribution of milk. Foot and mouth disease has not appeared in the District, although in close proximity.

Work on the new Water Scheme has just commenced. The Scheme will cost about £50,000, and comprises:—

1. An additional borehole at Sandyford, Delamere (making 2).
2. Erection of pumping machinery and buildings.
3. Erection of storage reservoir, capacity $1\frac{1}{2}$ million galls., at Utkinton.
4. Laying of 12-inch trunk main, 8 miles long, to Heyeswood Reservoir, Hartford.
5. Laying of 10-inch additional main from Heyeswood to Northwich.
6. Covering of Heyeswood Reservoir with reinforced concrete.

Public Health Staff.—

Medical Officer of Health	...	Part time	...	Grant in aid.
Sanitary Inspector R.S.I.	...	Whole time	...	„ „
Health Visitor C.M.B.	...	„	„	„ „

Housing.—The following table gives particulars concerning action taken under this heading:—

Number of new houses erected during the year:—				Urban.
(a)	Total	...	...	3
(b)	As part of a municipal housing scheme	...	...

1.—UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

1.—Inspection.

(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	510
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	510
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...					4
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	506

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	494
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3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A.—*Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :—				
(a) by owners	...	...	...	Nil.
(b) by local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	Nil.
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intentions to close				Nil.

B.—*Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	Nil.
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—	
(a) by owners	Nil.
(b) by local Authority in default of owners	Nil.

C.—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	4
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	4
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	Nil.
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	4
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	4

HENRY EDWARD GOUGH,

Medical Officer of Health.

March 17th 1923.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN NORTHWICH U.D.—1923.

CAUSES OF DEATH—CIVILIANS ONLY.	MALES.	FEMALES.
ALL CAUSES	109	93
Enteric Fever.. ... ..	.....	.....
Small Pox ... ..	.....	.....
Measles .. ... ..	.....	1
Scarlet Fever ... ..	.....	.....
Whooping Cough ... ..	.....	.....
Diphtheria ... ..	.....	.....
Influenza	4	3
Encephalitis lethargica ... ..	.....	.....
Meningococcal Meningitis ... ..	.....	.....
Tuberculous of respiratory system	3	2
Other Tuberculous Diseases	3	3
Cancer, Malignant Disease	11	10
Rheumatic Fever	1	.....
Diabetes	1	.....
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	5	5
Heart Disease... ..	20	21
Arterio-sclerosis	1	3
Bronchitis	5	7
Pneumonia (all forms)	8	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ... ..	.....	.....
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	4	1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ... ..	.....	1
Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..	.....	.....
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2	4
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	.....	.....
Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition ... ..	.....	2
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	6	5
Suicide... ..	2	.....
Other deaths from violence	8	3
Other defined diseases	23	16
Causes ill-defined or unknown ... ..	.....	.....
Special causes (included above):—		
Poliomyelitis ... ..	.....	.....
Polioencephalitis ... ..	.....	.....
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:—		
Total	18	8
Illegitimate... ..	1	.....
TOTAL BIRTHS... ..	168	178
Legitimate	157	176
Illegitimate	11	2
POPULATION:—		
For Births and Deaths	18770	

TABLE I.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	1,398
Population (1923) (R.G.)	18,770
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	4,050
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)	4,592
Rateable Value	£74,771 14s. 9d.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£311 11s. od.

2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Births	{ Legitimate	333	157	176	} Birth Rate (R.G) 18·38
	{ Illegitimate	13	11	2	
Deaths	.. .. .	202	109	93	Death Rate (R.G.) 10·7
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth					
from sepsis 0					
,, other causes 2					
Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births :—					
Legitimate .. 72		Illegitimate .. 2·8		Total .. 75	
Deaths from Measles (all ages) 1					
,, Whooping Cough (all ages) 0					
,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) 3					

3.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Cases.			Vision unim- paired.	Vision imp'ir'd.	Total Blind- ness.	Deaths.
	Notified.	Treated.					
		At home.	In hosp't'l				
	3	3	..	2	1	..	..

TABLE 3.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1923.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	At all Ages	Under 1.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 25.	20 to 35.	35 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and up- wards.	TOTAL CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.	Total Deaths
Small-pox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	11	...	1	...	...	1	2	3	3	1	...	...	...	8	...
Erysipelas	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever	52	1	1	1	4	2	27	8	5	2	1	...	...	48	...
Enteric fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Males	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	5	1	6	...	8	7
Females	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	5	2	...	...	2	3
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Males	4	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Females	3	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	101	4	3	1	5	4	34	12	12	13	4	8	1	68	11

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

TABLE 6.

General Order of Local Government Board (Medical Officer of Health and Inspectors of Nuisances), December 13th, 1910.
Tabular Statement of Inspections for the Year ended December 31st, 1922.

A Number and Nature of Inspections made.		Number.	B Number of Notices served.		C Result of Service of Notices.			
			Statutory.	Informal.	Notice com- plied with.	Remaining in hand.	Prosecutions.	
							Instituted.	Pending.
1.	Dwelling Houses (general inspection) ..	510	1	82	70	12	....	....
2.	Cellar Dwellings ..	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
3.	Back-to-Back Houses ..	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
4.	Tents, Vans, Sheds, &c... ..	10	....	..	....	....	....	....
5.	Courts, Yards, Passages... ..	40	....	....	....	....	....	....
6.	Privy-Middens, Earth or Pail Closets ..	1510	....	104	104	....	....	....
7.	Cesspools ..	80	....	50	50	....	....	....
8.	House Drainage ..	150	....	32	32	....	....	....
9.	Ditches, Watercourses, &c. ..	1	....	....	....	....	....	....
10.	Offensive Accumulations... ..	8	....	....	....	....	....	....
11.	The Keeping of Animals (P.H.A., 1875, S. 91 (3) ..	2	....	....	....	....	....	....
12.	Offensive Trades ..	20	....	....	....	....	....	....
13.	(a) Slaughterhouses (Public) nil. (Private) 11 ..	.... 550	........	........	........	........	........	........
14.	(b) Other Places where Food is produced or sold... ..	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
15.	Piggeries ..	3	....	....	....	....	....	....
16.	(a) Dairies ..	5	....	....	....	....	....	....
	(b) Cowsheds ..	5	....	....	....	....	....	....
	(c) Milkshops ..	16	....	12	12	....	....	....
	(a) Factories ..	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
17.	(b) Workshops ..	20	....	....	....	....	....	....
	(c) Workplaces ..	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	(d) Outworkers' Premises ..	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	Bakehouses (Overground) ..	92	....	....	....	....	....	....
18.	" (Underground) ..	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
19.	Common Lodging Houses ..	80	....	8	8	....	....	....
20.	Houses let in Lodgings ..	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
21.	Smoke Observations ..	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
22.	Canal Boats ..	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
23.	Infectious Disease Inquiries and Revisits ..	202	....	....	....	....	....	....
	Miscellaneous ..	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	Totals ..	3304	1	288	276	12	....	....

TABLE 4.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1923.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	All Ages.		Under 1 year.		1 and under 2.		2 and under 5.		5 and under 15.		15 and under 25.		25 and under 45.		45 and under 65.		65 and upwards.		TOTAL DEATHS WHETHER OF RESIDENTS OR NON-RESIDENTS IN INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.	
	2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10		11	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Enteric Fever.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Small Pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles .....	..	I	..	..	..	I	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping-cough .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Influenza	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	2	2	I	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis lethargica ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningococcal Meningitis.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculous of respira- tory system.....	4	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	I	I	2	2	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	2	..	..	..	..	I	..	I	..	I	I	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cancer, malignant disease.	II	IO	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	I	..	6	2	4	7	I	I	..
Rheumatic Fever	I	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diabetes	I	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	..	..	I	..	..
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	7	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	4	4	9	3	I
Heart Disease.....	14	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	..	..	2	7	7	6	6	5	2
Arterio-sclerosis	I	I	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	I	3	..
Bronchitis	9	7	..	I	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	3	5	3	I	..
Pneumonia (all forms)	9	7	I	2	..	..	I	I	..	..	..	..	I	2	6	I	..	I	I	I
Other respiratory diseases..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	I	..	I	..	..
Ulcer of Stomach or Duo- donum .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	3	I	3	..	..	I	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	..	I	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	..	..	I	2
Cirrhosis of Liver .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	..	2	2	I	2	I	..
Puerperal Sepsis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other accidents and dis- eases of Pregnancy and Parturition .....	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	..	I	..	..	..	..
Congenital Debility and Malformation, includ- ing Premature Birth ..	4	4	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Suicide	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	..	I	..	..	..
Other deaths from Violence	6	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	I	..	I	I	2	I	..	I	2	..
Other defined diseases	26	15	9	2	3	..	..	I	..	2	I	..	2	..	I	3	10	7	5	2
Causes ill-defined or unknown .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Special Causes (included above) ;	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poliomyelitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Polioencephalitis ....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	109	94	17	9	3	2	2	2	2	3	4	3	11	9	37	28	33	38	24	10

TABLE 5.

INFANT MORTALITY

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
ALL CAUSES:										
Certified
Uncertified
{ Small-pox
{ Chicken-pox
{ Measles
{ Scarlet Fever
{ Whooping Cough
{ Diphtheria and Croup
{ Erysipelas
{ Tuberculous
{ Meningitis
{ Abdominal
{ Tuberculosis (b)
{ Other Tuberculous
{ Diseases
{ Meningitis	I	I
{ (not Tuberculous)
{ Convulsions	I	..	..	I
{ Laryngitis
{ Bronchitis	I	..	..	I
{ Pneumonia (all forms)	I	I	I	..	3
{ Diarrhoea	I	I	..	..	2
{ Enteritis	I	..	..	I
{ Gastritis
{ Syphilis	I	I	I	3	I	I	..	..	5
{ Rickets
{ Suffocation, over-
{ lying
{ Injury at Birth	I	..	..	..	I	..	..	..	..	I
{ Atelectasis
{ Congenital	I	..	I
{ Malformations (c)
{ Premature Birth	4	I	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	5
{ Atrophy, Debility,	I	..	..	..	I	..	..	I	..	2
{ and Marasmus
{ Other Causes	I	..	..	..	I
{ Influenza
	6	2	I	I	10	4	6	3	I	24

ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE
HEALTHINESS OF THE CITIZENS
AND ON THE
SANITARY CONDITION
OF THE

CITY & COUNTY OF NORWICH

FOR THE YEAR

1923,

BY

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

